

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11 SCI-06 COA-02

SMI-01 DRC-01 /071 W

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R 261605Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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1. U.S. OWNED FIRM HAS BEEN GRANTED LEASE TO DEVELOP SMALL COSTA RICAN ISLAND CALLED ISLA DEL CANO LOCATED OFF OSA PENINSULA. COSTA RICAN TOURISM INSTITUTION (ICT) GRANTED LEASE AFTER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE GAVE GO AHEAD TO DEVELOPMENT FOR TOURIST PURPOSES.

2. THE GRANTING OF THE LEASE HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD CRITICISM IN NATIONAL PRESS. MAIN ARGUMENT AGAINST LEASING ISLAND TO FOREIGN FIRM IS HIGHLY CHARGED EMOTIONAL CLAIM THAT COSTA RICANS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED-- OR MORE PRECISELY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD--TO USE FACILITIES TO BE ERCTED ON ISLAND. OTHER MAJOR ARGUMENT IS THAT ISLA DE CANO RE-CREATES IN MINIATURE THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE OSA PENINSULA AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN NATURAL STATE FOR PURPOSES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. ISLA ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS NATURAL LIVE CORAL REEF OFF ITS COAST WHICH WOULD PROBABLY SUFFER IF ISLAND DEVELOPED.

3. AMERICAN FIRM INVOLVED IS REGISTERED IN COSTA RICA

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UNDER NAME COMPANIA ISLA DEL CANO, S. A. IT IS SAID TO BE CONNECTED WITH A U.S. FIRM CALLED DONALD W. MCINTOSH.

THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AND APPARENTLY A MAJOR SHAREHOLDER IN COSTA RICA IS ALAN (AKA ALAND) BRAITHWAIT. BRAITHWAIT LIVED IN CARACAS BEFORE COMING SAN JOSE. PRESS COVERAGE ESTIMATES THAT BRAITHWAIT'S COMPANY IS PLANNING TO INVEST UP TO \$12 MILLION IN DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAND. WHILE EMBASSY HAS SO FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT BRAITHWAIT--HE IS SAID TO HAVE GONE TO U.S. FOR FEW DAYS-- A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDEING IN COSTA RICA INFORMED EMBASSY OF A CONVERSATION HELD WITH BRAITHWAIT ABOUT A YEAR AGO IN WHICH BRAITHWAIT DESCRIBED ELABORATE PLANS TO TURN ISLA DEL CANO INTO LUXURIOUS BIG GAME FISHING RESORT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) FOR DEPARTMENT AND CARACAS: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ALAN BRAITHWAIT AND/OR FIRM OF DONALD W. MCINTOSH. (B) FOR PANAMA: IF EMBASSY DEEMS PRACTICAL PLEASE QUERY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN CANAL ZONE RE ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS ISLA DEL CANO.  
VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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